

Land policy REVIEW

Contents FOR MAY 1941

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	Page
Food and Strength for All <i>M. L. Wilson</i>	3
Adjustments for War and Peace . <i>Ronald L. Mighell</i>	9
Study Clubs: Democracy in Action . <i>Martin E. Schirber</i>	13
Who Will Do the Chores? . . . <i>Margaret M. Fellows</i>	18
Making Good on the Job <i>Edward Wywiurka</i>	22
Credit, Planning, and Adjustments . . <i>C. O. Brannen</i>	23
Dark Days in the Black Belt <i>James C. Downing</i>	27
Books . <i>Robert C. Tetro, Ronald L. Mighell, Simon E. Bourgin, Raymond F. Sletto, Caroline B. Sherman</i>	31

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS



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A PLAN FOR POST-WAR AMERICAN AGRICULTURE, a special number of LAND POLICY REVIEW, is being prepared. It promises to be of extraordinary importance and interest. Men of varied outlook and training will discuss *A Vision for the Future, Science in Farming, Agriculture and American Economy, The Problem of Distribution*, and other topics.

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Food and Strength

FOR ALL THE NATION

By M. L. WILSON. *Food wins more than wars, and more than an army marches on its stomach. A campaign to arouse interest in better nutrition, then, is important in defense efforts, in better farming, and in national welfare.*



AN IMPORTANT FACTOR in working out agricultural plans and policies in the years immediately ahead is the nutritional need of the community, State, and Nation. The chief economic purpose of agriculture is to produce food so that people are properly fed. *Being properly fed* in 1941 carries with it many considerations unknown or unheard of in 1914.

The striking changes we are likely to witness in applying scientific discoveries in human nutrition are indicated in the current campaign to raise the national health level in the interest of defense.

We hear more and more about vitamin-rich food. The milling and baking industries are cooperating with the National Research Council and are starting to supplement white bread and flour with vitamin B₁, iron, and the pellagra-preventing fac-

tor, nicotinic acid, in amounts lost in the modern milling process. Industries dealing with milk and dairy products, meat, eggs, fruits and vegetables emphasize in their advertisements that their commodities, too, are rich in vitamins.

Modern defense and modern war make demands on the whole economy and on all the people. Since human nutrition is one of the most important elements in assuring health, endurance, and morale, it has been receiving increasing emphasis since the start of the defense program; we realize the prevalence of an unwarranted amount of malnutrition, although tremendous progress has been made in food research and although we have a wealth of new information about food.

The action of the bread and milling industry is important because it touches off a nation-wide program in which industry, the government,

State and local agencies, and educators throughout the country are taking an active part. The coordination of all this work, so far as it deals with national defense, has been placed under Paul V. McNutt, Administrator of the Federal Security Agency and coordinator of nutrition, health, and welfare defense activities.

State nutrition committees, organized somewhat along the lines of State land use planning committees, have been organized as a part of the nutrition phase of the total defense activities. The Land Grant institutions are represented on these committees through membership of the nutritionists of the State Extension Service and the heads of the schools of home economics, in some cases also by specialists in agriculture. The activity, however, will be all-inclusive so far as cities, towns, and rural nutrition education and planning are concerned.

New Knowledge

What is there about nutrition that we did not know 10, 20, 30 years ago? Why is it so important now while we are engaged in a great national defense effort? Why is it likely to mark a new period for American agriculture?

From the historical approach, Dr. Norman Jolliffe, of the New York University College of Medicine, divided the history of modern nutrition into two phases:

"The pre-vitamin era—up to 1912, in which nutrition authorities believed that a good diet was insured if it included adequate protein plus sufficient calories derived from carbohydrates and fat to provide for the energy output, together with certain minerals.

"The vitamin era since 1912. Though this period formally began with the coining of the word 'vitamin' by Funk, a Polish biochemist working at the Lister Institute in London, and has continued with increasing acceleration up to the present, it had its earliest beginnings, as is natural, in the preceeding era, with the work of such men as Lunin, 1881; Eijkman, 1897-1906; the Wiconsin experiment, 1906; McCollum, 1906. The vitamin era may be subdivided into (a) the period of discovery, 1912 to the present, and (b) the application of our knowledge to human disease, 1920 to the present."

Nutrition and Total Defense

It is in this latter phase, the application of nutritional knowledge not only to correcting and preventing disease but to the promotion of buoyant rather than merely passable health, that all of us should be interested.

The knowledge that has been accumulated in this field, some of it only in the past few years, is so striking and so positive that its proper application is bound to have far-reaching effects on the future of our people and possibly on the entire human race. The events leading up to the recent decisions with regard to vitamin B₁, while by no means representing all that is new in nutrition, illustrate what I mean. Leaders in nutrition, especially those working in home economics, stimulated by the discovery of one vitamin after another, began to recognize the possibility of vitamin losses in our modern diets because man no longer relied on "natural" foods.

The most important losses in modern diets have been minerals and vitamins. Close under the outer

bran of the wheat kernel and in the germ are cells that contain thiamin (vitamin B₁), riboflavin, iron, nicotinic acid, and other vitamins and minerals. These cells are an essential part of the "long extraction" wheat flour on which our race grew strong.

Lack of thiamin may be responsible for that exhausted feeling which most of us have experienced at times. Thiamin is needed to help oxidize the carbohydrates in the body. Well-to-do families may suffer from its lack as well as the poor. The secret of getting enough of the vital food factors lies not only in abundance of food but in the choice and preparation of foods.

Restoring Nature's Balance

The nation-wide nutrition program now under way does not contemplate sweeping changes in the composition of food products. The food trades have, in fact, been cautioned against any kind of promotion that would tend to develop food fads and fancies. The "enriching" of bread is not a matter of changing a natural food product by "fortifying" it with an abnormal amount of vitamins. Under the formulas recommended by the National Research Council and the program under consideration by the Food and Drug Administration, "enriched" bread will simply be white bread changed in certain respects back to what it was before modern food habits demanded of processors that they deliver a highly refined and patented flour.

Food and War

Food will win the War was the slogan in 1917. *Proper balance of*

food in everyone's diet may well become the keynote of our defense program and of successful aid to Britain.

Surgeon General Parran of the Public Health Service reports that the Germans took steps several years ago "to provide for the working masses a diet better than ours have now." Paul de Kruif, at a national meeting of millers and bakers in Chicago, said that the greatly publicized "secret weapons" of the Nazis may well be increased amounts of vitamin B₁, fed to the German people and soldiers to prevent a crack-up of morale such as that experienced in 1918.

The necessary steps to make use of technical information on nutrition for defense have been taken. The next step—and this is the most important step from an agricultural standpoint—is to rearrange diets in line with the foods readily available in the section of the country or the community in which one lives.

Among the biggest handicaps to overcome are poor habits passed down from one generation to another. Food habits that are part of ancient cultural patterns linger. Some of these are good; some unfortunate. Probably as important as anything in improving our diet is to encourage families to season food with scientific knowledge—to demonstrate conclusively that modern nutrition has something to offer, to abandon detrimental and harmful habits and preconceived notions, and to put the feeding of the family on a scientific basis. It won't cost any more.

Some weeks ago I visited a county where malnutrition was found in about half the people. An interesting thing was that the evidences of malnutrition were not so pronounced in the colored people as in the white

people. Colored people are accustomed to use "pot-likker"—the water in which vegetables are boiled—for food, while white people usually throw this valuable mineral and vitamin-containing fluid away. This illustrates what we mean by changing food habits.

Nutrition and the Farm Family

Important to practical farming is the fact that farmers will reappraise the value of good dietary standards in the family. Farmers who have been successful in livestock raising have learned to plan adequate rations for their stock on the basis of available feed, but many of them have overlooked the importance of equally well-balanced formulas for keeping their own families fit.

Much credit for pointing out the extent of malnutrition among rural people is due Hazel K. Stiebeling and Day Monroe, of the Bureau of Home Economics, and their associates. Surveys they conducted in collaboration with the Bureau of Labor Statistics focused attention on the difference between good and poor diets and showed how home-grown foods affected the diets of farm families, and revealed also the effect of income and expenditures on food consumption. The studies indicated that at least one out of four families lived on diets inadequate to maintain thoroughly normal health. In the samples studied, more defective diets were found in cities than on farms, and more in small towns than in cities.

Diets of farm families, according to these surveys, showed deficiencies frequently reported in the past by Extension workers. A large proportion of farm diets were too low in vegetables, fruit, milk, or whole

grains, and often provided too little meat—foods that most farmers can grow at home.

In many rural sections and communities, low incomes contribute to malnutrition. Poor land, small farms, low farm income, expensive credit, frequent moving by tenants, inefficient farming methods, and low educational standards combine with poor diets in an everlasting spiral that can only tend to lower health and morale.

The need in groups like these is to develop a systematic and unified method of approach through closer integration of educational and administrative programs to alleviate these conditions. But good eating, in the modern definition of the term, should be the first part of any program intended to help the disadvantaged.

It is now generally agreed that the best approach to helping poor people is to guide them in planning and doing things for themselves. With the proper encouragement, not only from public agencies and farmer committees, but from landlords and leaders in the community, the lower-income level of rural people can be encouraged to grow the things that are the prerequisite for the good health of their families.

Many examples are on record which show that once an underprivileged family has been restored to health, it is easier for its members to fight their way back to economic independence.

Even in numerous families of the better income levels do we find considerable malnutrition. Although a larger proportion of farm families have better diets than do city and town families, recent studies have shown that approximately 2,500,000

farm people have diets that are unsatisfactory because they fail to furnish the minimum requirements of all needed materials. In New York, one of our richest agricultural States, 25 percent of the farms did not have gardens.

The average value of New York farm gardens was less than \$33. Figures are available in several States, however, showing that higher income farm families in general produce a larger amount of food for home use than low-income families.

Nutrition Education Necessary

Farm family food supply programs have become major educational projects of most State Extension Services. Although educational emphasis on farm family food supplies is almost as old as the Extension Service itself, these programs take on greater significance in the light of recently discovered dietary facts.

How can farmers, rich or poor, contribute towards improving their health with little or no expense?

Recently, Dr. Lydia J. Roberts of the home economics department, University of Chicago, outlined a vitamin C calendar for Midwestern farms, providing at different seasons the same number of units contained in half a cup of orange juice. It surprised even some of the vegetable and fruit experts to see how many vitamins farmers could grow at home. The Oregon Extension Service has a project called *home grown vitamins*.

When Dr. Roberts' idea of a vitamin calendar has been applied with regard to all the protective foods and vitamins that can be grown in every county and community, we will have gone a long way towards solving the national nutrition problem. The il-

lustration serves to stress the importance of using the new nutritional knowledge in an integrated live-better-on-the-home-farm program. In such a program, land use planning plays a vital part.

Putting Health First

Probably we should think of the entire question as one of a practical modern philosophy of farming. Being a good farmer used to be rewarded by a feeling of security, accomplishment, pride, and satisfaction. This was measured not so much in terms of wealth and cash income as in the satisfaction that comes with security. Should the first emphasis in the future be on man-hour production? Or, should it be on health and family first—with health and morale and the other good things that follow? Surely the latter is what the majority of our ancestors had in mind when they homesteaded on the frontier.

It is necessary to look beyond the immediate total defense emergency when we weigh the future importance of nutrition in terms of our entire farming economy. State and local planning committees must look at it from this long-time standpoint.

In planning production of a year-around food supply on the farm, the following objectives should be kept in mind: Protection of health; conservation of cash for the purchase of essentials that cannot be produced at home; providing a safeguard against uncertainties of income; helping farm families help themselves. These same objectives should be emphasized and interpreted in the farm management and home management courses offered in our colleges of agriculture and home economics to the young men and young women who

will become leaders and heads of families in our rural communities.

Emphasis on nutrition will affect farmers in four ways: Farmers will appreciate the need for better diets for their families; as the educational programs take effect, the tendency will be to grow at home the protective foods that are needed for a year-around supply; with improving diets, we may expect an improvement in the general state of health and well-being among rural people in areas now suffering from malnutrition; it would not be surprising if farm families began to exchange needed products with one another and through local cooperatives, thus reducing costs and the labor of home food production and processing while obtaining a "liberal" diet of high quality.

Nutrition and Planning

In the rural counties there will and should be close cooperation between the land use planning and nutrition planning committees. On a state and national scale, land use planning and nutrition planning will have much in common.

Land use planning is setting a pattern for a new approach. This pattern will be widely used in connection with all kinds of problems. A great opportunity for use of this pattern is offered in making the attack on the nutrition problem.

The renewed emphasis placed by the Extension Service on the family food supply programs in terms of the newest nutritional knowledge makes nutrition an action program in the truest sense. State Extension food supply committees, State nutrition committees, and educational workers in States and counties will

be active getting people to see the importance of health-protecting diets. On the farm, this will mean increased emphasis on farm gardens, farm storage, refrigeration, and all the other elements of food production and conservation. Helping farm people plan necessary shifts in acreage and production will be an important function of the land use planning committees.

Home economists, dietitians, and others constitute a great body of persons trained in the science of nutrition. What is needed is nutrition planning, beginning with techniques that determine which persons and groups in a community do not have good diets. This can be done in a manner similar to the way in which land use planning determines good and poor land.

After making such a determination, it will be necessary to provide plans for improving the dietary situation. This includes such things as educational programs, the food-stamp program, and self-help of various kinds. It is a rural and urban—a national—problem and program. We know the way. We will do it.

The wealth and strength of a country are its population, and the best part of the population are the cultivators of the soil. Independent farmers are everywhere the basis of society and true friends of liberty.

—ANDREW JACKSON

Adjustments for WAR AND PEACE

By RONALD L. MIGHELL. *Farm adjustments in the next years should be planned to help the Democracies, improve American diets, and facilitate long-range improvements. The book, "Feeding the People in War-Time," is reviewed by Mr. Mighell elsewhere in this number.*



THE WAR has brought into sharp focus the now familiar picture of the long period of shrinking foreign markets for wheat, cotton, tobacco, and other export farm products. Even though the peace that will finally come may usher in an era of freer international trade, it does not now appear likely that this Nation will ever again find as large an export market for these products as in the 1920's. In that event, the agriculture of the regions producing the great export farm products must inevitably undergo a major readjustment.

In this adjustment, some of the resources of these regions will be shifted toward the production of other domestically consumed commodities. Dairy and poultry products, meats, fruits, and vegetables will be among these more favored alternatives. Subsequent increases in their production will have repercussions on present sources of supply in other regions. Here is bound to be a major problem of interregional competition in the future.

But the war is now doing something more. Among the develop-

ments of recent weeks, the intensified attack upon British shipping, the passage of the Lend-Lease Act, and the more definite program of aid to Britain now leave no doubt that an increasing proportion of the British food imports will come from the United States. As long as the bridge of ships across the Atlantic is maintained, food will go with munitions to the British and other friendly powers. We may therefore expect a considerable increase in the export of certain concentrated farm products to continue for the duration of the war and perhaps for the period of the readjustment thereafter.

It is still too early to forecast very closely the exact quantities or the make-up of these increased exports. Undoubtedly they will include lard, butter, concentrated milk, pork, dried fruits, and other products high in nutritive value per cubic foot of shipping space, for shipping space will be a governing factor.

To a considerable extent, moreover, much of these increased exports will consist of the same domestically consumed commodities for which expanding business activity and improved employment have

brought an increased domestic demand. The adjustments that farmers in all regions will attempt to make to take advantage of this expansion in domestic and foreign demand will be another source of interregional competition. Errors in adjustment during these war years may lead to even graver maladjustments in the post-war years.

The agricultural mistakes of World War I are too plainly written in the eroded slopes of the southern Corn Belt, the Dust Bowl areas of the Great Plains, and elsewhere to permit their repetition. Adjustments in the agriculture of the United States during the next few years must be planned with several primary considerations in mind:

Everything possible must be done to supply the British and their allies with the kinds of food that will help them the most in their war effort.

The natural corollary of this is that we should do all we can to supply our own people with the best diet possible.

The adjustments necessary to attain those objectives need to be planned so as to conflict as little as possible with desirable long-time adjustments in our agriculture and, when possible, they should be planned to assist these needed long-time changes.

Now

In analyzing the regional and interregional adjustments needed to contribute most to these objectives, we need to consider certain time periods. The immediate and pressing task of those individuals and agencies engaged in the business of aiding Britain with food now will not wait for production adjustments in the agriculture of the United

States. For some months to come it will be chiefly concerned with commodities already in existence or with those being produced as a result of plans and production processes long since initiated.

More important for the whole period of the defense effort, however, are the *production* adjustments that will aid Britain in the middle-term period extending over the next several years. How long shall this period be? No one knows how long the war will last. But the Nation is building battleships, some of which will not be finished for 5 or 6 years. Others will be completed sooner. Is not the wisest war policy for agriculture one which takes account of at least as long a period as that considered in making the direct implements of war?

Americans have been inclined to underestimate the strategic place of food in this war, because they are still thinking in terms of World War I. Memories of wheat shortages then, coupled with knowledge of present wheat surpluses, do not suggest any present emergency on the production side. But the Nazis appreciated the war-time value of American discoveries in nutrition and began planning German agricultural production as early as 1933 on the basis of the "newer knowledge of nutrition." Experiments with rejected army recruits under the direction of Sir John Orr, the British food expert, have shown surprising improvement in physical condition, so that large numbers of the rejected men could pass the army physical examinations within a few months.

The most serious adjustment problem for this middle-term war period therefore comes down to a

matter of producing additional quantities of certain foods needed to further the war effort and producing these in the regions and areas where they can be obtained most efficiently and with the least troublesome after-effects.

The economic analysis needed to help in this emergency situation must be carefully considered. It must yield results in a relatively short time. It must be carefully planned in its national and inter-regional aspects. In general, the following broad steps must be included:

A careful initial estimate by commodities of probable demands (needs) for export and for additional domestic consumption. These estimates will need to be made for various intervals of time up to the full middle-term period ahead, and they must be subjected to constant periodic revision as circumstances change.

A preliminary estimate of the probable prices or probable relationships between the prices of various farm products and cost factors. These estimates are needed at the very outset as part of the basic information for use in the production estimates. Like the preliminary demand estimates, they need to cover the full period of the war effort, and even more than the demand estimates they will be subject to revision from time to time as changes in the estimates of both demand and supply will affect them. Revisions will also be required in the case of administered prices that are directly or indirectly affected by changes in farm programs.

Another step will consist of careful advance estimates by commodities of the production that may be

anticipated region by region if the estimated demand and price relationships hold over the war period.

The fourth step will represent the integration and reconsideration of the preceding steps. After the regional estimates of production have been made, they will need to be added together for a total national estimate for each commodity. It will probably be found in most cases that the total outputs estimated will not be consistent with the demand and price situations used. In that event, all-around revisions in the estimates will be in order. In some cases it may appear that undesirable changes in agriculture will result unless one of the farm programs is modified or reinforced. For example, an expansion in the production of corn or other cultivated crops may be needed to satisfy war demands. Additional safeguards may need to be added to the agricultural conservation program to guide the additional production into areas where soil erosion problems can be kept under control.

Perhaps the most difficult part of the analyses suggested is that of estimating the production responses. Agricultural economists and other specialists have had a lot of practice in recent years in planning desirable farm adjustments. Much progress has been made in enlisting the combined services of economists, technicians, and farmers as well. The state and local planning committees have been performing pioneer service in this respect.

In Ward County, North Dakota, and Adair County, Iowa, to mention only two among many instances, exhaustive analyses have been made of the adjustments in crop and livestock systems and practices on individual

farms that need to be made to obtain better incomes and better living for farmers, while maintaining farm resources.

Most of this planning work has been in terms of long-run adjustments, goals to strive toward. Relatively little attention has been directed to the accuracy of the production estimates over specific middle-term periods, because that has been of less importance than making sure of moving in the direction of the long-run objectives.

But war is a grim master and specific answers are now required for definite middle-term periods. These answers must be in terms of quantities that will be produced during these periods. We must know how much butter, how much concentrated milk, how much pork, how much of each important item in the list of significant nutritional needs can be supplied the friendly fighting nations, in addition to furnishing an ample war-time diet to our own people. We need to know our rates of output in respect to these foods just as surely as we need to know the rates of output for airplanes and tanks and ships.

Fortunately, a line of research, which has direct application to the present need, is that in interregional competition which was initiated in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in 1936. Most of this research has been related to interregional competition in dairy products so that the direct results have most application to dairying. But the procedures and type of analysis developed have a wider and more general application to the present problem. Several variations in budget estimating

have been developed—some of which can be handled with great rapidity.

An analysis leading to definite suggestions for farm adjustment to meet war needs by major regions and by areas within these regions is now under way. A preliminary report from this study is expected by June 30. The results are expected to be more specific than those in the bulletin, "Regional Adjustments to Meet War Impacts," prepared last October. They should be helpful not only in appraising the probable results of a continuation of the present farm programs but also in connection with working out the changes in programs that will aid in obtaining the most efficient interregional and interarea adjustments in production for the war period and in avoiding serious later maladjustments.

FOR FURTHER READING:

REGIONAL ADJUSTMENT TO MEET WAR IMPACTS. U.S.D.A., October 1940.

PROBABLE EFFECTS OF THE AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM ON LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN THE MIDWEST DAIRY REGION. By Sherman E. Johnson, Ronald L. Mighell, and Frank T. Hady. Parts I-V. January 1940.

SUPPLY RESPONSES IN MILK PRODUCTION IN THE CABOT-MARSHFIELD AREA, VERMONT. By R. H. Allen, Erling Hole, and Ronald L. Mighell. U.S.D.A. Bulletin 709.

SUPPLY RESPONSES IN MILK PRODUCTION IN DODGE AND BARRON COUNTIES, WISCONSIN. By Raymond Christensen and Ronald L. Mighell. U.S.D.A. Bulletin 750.

DETERMINING INPUT-OUTPUT RELATIONSHIPS IN MILK PRODUCTION. By Einar Jensen. *Journal of Farm Economics*, Volume 20, pages 249-258, 1940.

The Study Club

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

By MARTIN E. SCHIRBER, O.S.B. *People seem to be more interested now than they used to be in democratic freedom to think, study, talk, and act—witness the growing influence of planning groups, the Department's schools of philosophy, and study groups. Father Schirber wrote about cooperative aspects of the successful Antigonish Movement in Nova Scotia in the January Land Policy Review. Here he discusses the study club as one of the main instruments of the movement.*



IF PEOPLE are to meet and solve their problems in the complex and changing world of today, they must study, think, and unite for action.

The adult who left school at an immature age may never have had training in abstract thought that helps one to understand social, economic, and political questions and proposals for their solutions. He seldom tries to generalize beyond his own experience. If he thinks at all, he is apt to accept over-simplified schemes for social and economic reform.

But if he sits down humbly to study and discuss these problems, it is possible that he will arrive at a clear and unprejudiced understanding, the lack of which gives rise to much of the ill-will and social conflict of today. There is a strong possibility, also, of replacing age-old prejudices and animosities with a

spirit of mutual aid.

Adult education, however, is not merely an extension of elementary or high school education. Adults generally are interested in concrete things and in matters pertaining to their own livelihood; the approach in their thought and study is made through concrete problems connected with their daily lives. Other fields of human endeavor may be more noble than the economic, but none attracts more spontaneous interest, and in the task of convincing people of the need and possibility of adult learning, it is merely sound realism to begin where a latent interest already exists. Furthermore, an adult likes to see results and will respond to study if it leads to accomplishment of some practical project to improve his economic status, where he would shun mere academic study. Finally, if study is to bring action, it must be united action; for the isolated individual

generally cannot achieve any significant results in an economic order dominated by highly organized interest groups.

As Dr. M. M. Coady put it: "We start with simple material things that are vital to human living and move on up the scale to the more cultural and refining activities that make life whole and complete. * * * Through credit unions, cooperative stores, lobster factories, and sawmills we are laying the foundation for an appreciation of Shakespeare and grand opera."

These considerations establish the study club as the indispensable instrument of adult education. It is inexpensive and effective. Through it, thousands of people can be mobilized to study their economic and social problems and guided in developing the organizations designed to improve their economic status and enrich their cultural life.

Blueprint

The educational program built upon the foundation of the study club has now been so tried and perfected as to be called a blueprint—but not a blueprint in the sense of a program of social planning that would force society into a preconceived mould, under the direction of government experts.

The Antigonish Movement is characterized by a slow, experimental type of progress whereby social institutions are evolved slowly and painstakingly; and the educational program can be called a blueprint only insofar as it is a standardized method of awakening people to their possibilities and organizing them for community endeavors. From that point on, the course of development depends upon the results of study

and discussion and the concrete situation in each locality.

The methods employed by the Extension Department vary as to detail from time to time and from place to place. In the early stages of the Movement, certain communities faced a situation which left no doubt as to what course to pursue. The immediate need dictated the erection of a lobster factory, for instance, or the formation of a shipping club, or a local for marketing live lobsters. As the Movement grew and extended to communities facing the same general conditions, the developmental technique became more and more standardized.

The First Step

At present, the first step is to arouse a community's interest by means of a mass meeting. A representative of the Extension gives a simple, graphic, inspiring address which points out how the people have failed to make the most of their opportunities. Ways of helping themselves to recover lost ground are suggested, stories are told of how other communities have regained their vigor, and the people are encouraged to examine their social and economic surroundings and to undertake the study of some problem which represents their most pressing need.

But the Extension speaker issues a warning note: He reminds his audience that their abilities have lain dormant for so long that they cannot expect to achieve any concrete results without some preparatory study. He suggests the formation of clubs to study the proposed project for a time. A call for study club leaders is issued. People from different sections of the community, recognized as leaders, are prevailed upon,

without formal election, to lead the clubs to be formed.

The leader need have no more knowledge of the topic to be studied than any of the members, but he must have more than the average share of enthusiasm and persistence. He must not feel or show any superiority, nor give a display of leadership savoring of paternalism. He is merely *primus inter pares*, and charged with maintaining interest, arranging time and place of meetings, and steering discussions in fruitful directions. His principal duty is to maintain relations with the Extension. Literature pertinent to the topic under study is mailed to him, and he is responsible for distributing it to club members.

Club Meetings

Experience has taught the wisdom of observing certain norms in the conducting of study clubs. The clubs should embrace people of the same neighborhood so that it is not too burdensome to attend regularly, and so that common acquaintance will banish diffidence. The club must not be too large—not over 12 members. A larger number makes it impossible to conduct genuine study meetings.

Various devices are used to gain new members. The leader or any of the members may ask a friend if he is interested in the topic under study. He will try to arouse the prospective member's curiosity to the point where he will consent to attend a meeting. If he is interested, the club may agree to meet at his house the following week. From then on, he is likely to be a loyal member. As clubs grow in this way, they can be divided whenever necessary in a manner resembling cell division.

The study club can hold its meetings at any convenient, central place. Usually the first meeting is at the home of the leader, and after that each of the members entertains in turn. The meetings should be conducted not more than once a week, nor too infrequently; otherwise, they will become too burdensome and interest will wane. The duration of each meeting can be adapted to suit the members' convenience: Usually 2 or 3 hours, and it must never extend beyond the appointed hour. No refreshments, beyond, for example, some fruit or a cup of tea or coffee, may be served, and no activities which might make the meetings burdensome in the long run are permitted. The meetings are perfectly informal. Members are advised to take notes on their reading at home or on the discussions.

Stimulating Interest

Several devices are used to stimulate interest and participation of all members. If it is difficult to start the discussion, one member may read aloud from the book or pamphlet that is being studied, pausing at the end of each paragraph to raise questions. Generally the members will have read thoroughly a definite assignment and prepared themselves on certain questions. If the questions raised cannot be answered by the members, the leader writes to the Extension for clarification.

Interest may be sustained also through panel discussions, public speaking contests, and debates. A topic for debate is chosen by the association of study clubs and members of individual clubs volunteer to take sides on the question. The community debate is held at a rally of the association, and the winners may then meet the winners from an-

other association of study clubs. Public speaking contests are popular.

Topics for the speeches have included: The need for adult education, social justice, the defects of our capitalistic system, recent reforms in marketing agricultural products, the defects of our monetary system, and co-operation — a way out. One-act plays are commonly written by club members, and staged at rallies of the associated study clubs.

It is advised that clubs be composed of both men and women, because the housewife plays such an important part in the management of the household and its funds and furnishes so much of the motivation necessary for maintaining sustained interest in prolonged community effort. Furthermore, there is a danger that clubs composed only of women will degenerate into mere sewing bees. Negroes are invited to join clubs composed of white people, but they have shown a preference for forming clubs among themselves.

The study club activity in most sections follows the general pattern here outlined with differences in detail arising from particular circumstances; but one cannot escape the impression that in rural areas especially the study club method or adult education has not been exploited as fully as in the industrial districts.

This is undoubtedly a result of rural conditions and distances between farms. Nevertheless, under proper leadership, rural groups show great devotion to the study club. This is especially true when the rural community conducts short courses in production, marketing, and so on, for men, and in handicrafts and domestic arts for women, after which the study clubs discuss the matters brought out by the lecturers.

The activities of the study clubs of each community are coordinated through the formation of an "association of study clubs" embracing all the clubs in a community. This organization acts through a president, secretary, and executive committee of three chosen from the membership of constituent clubs. These officers conduct meetings of the associated study clubs, record the minutes, and arrange for joint activities, especially the monthly rallies of the associated clubs.

The rallies serve a twofold purpose: The early part of the evening is entirely given over to reports and business of common interest, and the rest of the evening is devoted to recreation.

Reports

The business meeting may consist of reports of study club leaders as to the progress they are making and (if they are studying toward a credit union or cooperative store) as to the amount the club has saved. This stimulates rivalry among clubs. If the project under study is in process of formation, reports will be given concerning its progress. The rally enables all members to hear what "others are doing", and stimulating accounts of success in one club or community (when an outside speaker is invited) inspire all with greater enthusiasm.

If the associated study club is proposing to send some members to St. Francis Xavier University for a short course, as many of them do, this question will be discussed at the business meeting. In some communities the association of study clubs really performs the function of the New England town meeting. It is always ready to swing into action

to discuss and make recommendations concerning questions of community policy, which may have no relation whatever to the subject under study. Thus the associated study clubs of one town met to discuss ways and means of introducing a woodworking class for the benefit of unemployed youths, as one of the courses of the evening technical school sponsored in each community by the government.

The recreational part of the program may take different forms. Perhaps an outside speaker will be invited to inject new ideas and new enthusiasm into the community. Perhaps a representative of the Extension will give an address on some vital topic. Debates, public speaking contests, dialogs, readings, one-act plays, displays of handicrafts, and a "community sing" are examples of the recreational part of the rally. A luncheon of some sort then tops off the evening.

The rally thus provides a welcome community recreation—and what is more important, spontaneous recreation provided by the people themselves—during winter evenings and serves to maintain interest and enthusiasm. It likewise fosters community spirit and keeps before the members the fact that they are engaging in adult education with the aim of developing some community institution for the welfare of all. This broader outlook is fostered by the holding of joint rallies of several associations of study clubs several times a year to remind the members that they are taking part in a wider movement than that represented by their little community.

Frequently the association decides the topic for study in its community,

especially if the project is one requiring participation of all clubs. Suggested topics range from the credit union and cooperative store to scientific agriculture, consumer education, and cooperative medicine.

In communities where the movement is just getting under way, there is normally no subject more suitable than the credit union. A way to learn to save money and escape debt is always needed. People are always interested in proposals that promise to enable them to keep ahead of their bills. Secondly, freedom from debt is a prerequisite for the accomplishment of further projects. Thirdly, the credit union is "foolproof." It is easy to understand and simple to organize and operate. All that is required is that the members learn to save regularly and find one of their number who is acquainted with bookkeeping to act as treasurer and manager. The almost certain success in their credit union venture gives the members some acquaintance with legal terms, bookkeeping, and formal procedure in general. It is the first step in educating people to manage their own affairs, and prepares them for further experiments in self-help.

When such a study is started, each club member receives a copy of various pamphlets, specimen articles of association and the Credit Union Act of Nova Scotia, and other materials. For several months the clubs study the credit union from all angles, raise many questions, and ponder every detail.

At the end of the period they have a clear understanding of its nature as a means to systematic saving and as an instrument for social reconstruction.

Who Will Milk

AND DO THE CHORES?

By MARGARET M. FELLOWS. *The education of farm boys and girls will have much to do with any future agricultural problem—or lack of it. Not education necessarily in weighty theories or with academic trappings, but education for practical living and work—training of the kind given at the Bowdoin Farm School for boys.*



AMERICAN SCIENTISTS have yet to devise a cheap machine for doing farm chores—that daily grind for many farmers who cannot hire a full-grown hand. But the application of plain horse sense is helping the privately endowed Bowdoin Farm Training School to answer, for hundreds of small New York farmers, the question, “Who will milk the cow while Farmer Jones attends to more important matters?”

The school was started primarily to aid boy victims of the depression, and for a decade has supplied farmers, at a price they can pay, with trained, intelligent, willing lads, eager to get a foothold in America's largest industry. The institution, one of the few to which a boy can go free of will and free of charge to learn practical farming, is the Dutchess County outpost of The Children's Aid Society of New York City. It was launched in 1929 when a New York philanthropist, George T. Bowdoin, donated his country estate to the Society.

Lying on the fertile banks of the Hudson River near New Hamburg,

the model community has been able to guarantee its graduates jobs during the entire depression. Today, the demands of satisfied farmers for trained boys actually exceeds the supply by some 50 percent. The courses, open to any healthy qualifying lad in the United States between 16 and 21, takes 6 months to complete. More than 200 boys a year are trained, the maximum number that can be handled at one time on the 327-acre farm.

The program is intensely practical. Books are eschewed in the regular courses; it is not the purpose of the school to turn out agricultural theorists. Experience, for boys and staff alike, is the teacher. A decade of experiment has ironed out the wrinkles, streamlined every part of the curriculum to accomplish in the best and quickest way the task of making these adolescent agriculturists “livable” and “serviceable”—prerequisites for happiness in all human labor.

Many problems have been met and dealt with quickly, often with inspired ingenuity. For example, in the early days of the school, farmers

complained that students, hired out as expert milkers, could not stand the strain of milking a small herd of 5 to 10 cows. Investigation revealed that the boys knew how to milk well, but that they lacked the continued practice that develops the particular arm and back muscles used in milking. Insufficient funds would not allow additions to the school's herd of 25 Holsteins, so the faculty put its collective mind to work. In short order a rubber udder, lined with water-soaked sponge, was devised, and each student was made to practice a half hour on this udder daily. Complaints from the farmers stopped abruptly with the new crop of artificial-udder trained graduates.

A Model Community

Throughout his 6 months of study, the Bowdoin Farm student finds a duplicate of every situation he could possibly encounter on the farm job. The estate has been laid out as an exact model of a typical farming community—its ways of work and worship, its customs, pleasures, taboos. Advanced students live in farm cottages, four to eight boys to a cottage. A farmer and his wife, hired for their knowledge of boys and understanding of the American farmer's folkways, head each of these cottages. For months these couples are mothers, fathers, employers, and guardians to their broods.

From the rising hour before dawn to bedtime shortly after sundown, farm routine is observed. For an hour before breakfast chores are done around the house, while the farm mother creates the typically huge farm breakfast. A bell calls the workers to grace and meal, from which they rise to receive their various chore assignments in the fields,

cowbarn, horsebarn, henhouse, or wherever. Most homely and most popular chore with the students is helping the farm mother. A month is devoted to this important task to teach the lads the important job of "learning to know the womenfolk." They plant the kitchen garden, do odd jobs, run errands, dry dishes, scrub floors. For pay they get extra cookies, for punishment a woman's derision for a male bungler. And the result is a boy who has mastered the task of getting on with the farm family.

Life in the cottages is intimate, pleasant, and instructive—but the student must first show that he has a right to it. The newcomer is installed in Hillside House, a rambling 19th century farmhouse with the top floors fitted out as dormitories. When he has proved through work and play that he can assume the responsibilities of family life in the cottages, the student is promoted to one of them. Sometimes bad-mannered or surly cottage-dwellers are demoted to Hilltop. But almost invariably the boys learn the value of acquiring the quality described by the farm mothers as "livability."

Chores, stiff at the start, get stiffer. Every student must spend a month of the hardest kind of labor in the horsebarn, dairy, henhouse, carpentry and painting shops, and piggery. Weeds among the boys, as among plants, are quickly uprooted—the law of selection rules. But, more often than not, the health-giving work in the fields and the new, bright opportunities ahead bring out characteristics that may have remained dormant.

City-bred Andy Moulton, for example, overcame a reputation for uselessness in a few months. He was

a city tough, who, after he had been accepted, boasted that he had joined up to take a free vacation in the country. He would have quit after the first week's workout, he later admitted, if he had been able to take his comrades' laughter. Toward the end of the second month, however, Andy discovered and admitted that he liked hard outdoor work. And shortly afterwards, Andy became interested in poultry. His toughness turned to determination, and after graduation he received a position at \$20 a month with room and board. He saved every cent he earned for 3 years and at the end of that time made a \$600 down payment on a chicken farm of his own. Last year Andy's profits amounted to more than \$1,500.

City and Country Boys

Boys like Andy, city boys, often make slicker farmers than country boys, because the latter sometimes must unlearn faulty practices. City boys start from scratch and learn the right way of doing things. At times they can even tip their employers to better farming methods.

One ex-city feller who hired out to a truck gardener in Ulster County toward the end of last November was appalled to see unused farm machinery dotting the landscape. Plows, reapers, and harrows had been left just where the farmer had happened to finish with them. Wasting no time, he hauled the idle machines into the barn as he had been taught to do, and cleaned, oiled, and painted them in an afternoon.

The next day the employer, slightly ruffled, scolded him for "boondoggling when there's more important work to be done." In the spring, though, the farmer found

that not a single replacement due to rust had to be made on any machine, and admitted he was saved a pretty bill he did not know could be avoided.

The school has a rotating curriculum. A boy can be enrolled or graduated at any time. Ordinarily such a system would see some students cheated out of ploughing and planting—others out of harvesting. At Bowdoin, however, a boy who enters in an off-season is put to work ploughing a special "practice plot" of three acres. His planting and reaping, if missed outdoors, he will get in the two greenhouses during the winter. Overlapping classes in this manner also make it possible to put the new boys with the more experienced. On the entire farm only a dairy specialist and a poultry expert supervise the boys at work, and then only when a new technique must be learned. On their own from morning until night, the boys develop a sense of responsibility about their work.

The farm is run with no eye to profit. It was discovered early that the moment special attention is paid to raising large, quality crops, the quality of the boy crop fails, and the essential point of the enterprise is blunted. Successful harvests are consumed by the students at the school—an elastic food budget makes up for any crop failures.

After School

A painstaking check is made on each prospective employer before a job is accepted for a boy. A constant watch is kept on farmer and boy afterward. Nothing but permanent positions are accepted. Each employer must agree to take the boy

into his own social circle without reservation. If a farmer falls down on his part of the bargain or tries in any way to exploit his young worker, the boy is placed in another job.

Sometimes a graduate marries the farmer's daughter. It has happened that with their training to recommend them, some of the lads have proved indispensable to their employers and the latter have been only too anxious to get them into the family.

Bulwarks

With an independent yeomanry scattered over your vast domain, the "young eagle" may bid defiance to the world in arms. And, even though the foe should devastate your seaboard to lay in ashes its cities, they have made not one single advance toward conquering the country. For, from the interior come up your hardy yeomanry, and, with their hearts of oak and their nerves of steel, they expel the invader. Their arms are the citadel of a nation's power, their hearts are the bulwarks of liberty.

—GALUSHA A. GROW

One stout-backed 18-year-old, called Sleepy Joe by his mates, got himself a wife and a part ownership in a farm last spring. He arrived at the farm to start his first job only to find that his employer, down with lumbago, was in despair for fear he could not get the planting done in time. Sleepy Joe, who had never worked on a farm before Bowdoin, had to take over completely. The farm ran like a charm for the 2 months that the farmer was laid up. The farmer, according to himself, threatened to shoot Joe if he ever tried to leave his employ.

Boys who wish to specialize in a particular branch of agriculture are encouraged to do so—if they can fit it in without neglecting their regular chore duties at the school. Many lads with special aptitudes or with extraordinary diligence are encouraged to take further courses in the State agricultural colleges, and are helped financially to do so by The Children's Aid Society.

More than a score of such lads have been graduated from Delhi and Farmingdale in the past 3 years, all of them with at least a B average.

All the boys, of course, don't trail clouds of agricultural glory from graduation on. The Children's Aid Society does not expect them to. It is glad if the 6 months at the school gives them courage, independence, and health for the hard fight, and it is delighted when a farmer is helped to solve his problems.

Probably, however, the most important point of the entire work is that a private enterprise, at a time when Government agencies seem to be the only solutions to such problems, has operated to solve an agricultural and employment situation with success.

Making Good on the Job

A SPEECH BY EDWARD WYWIURKA AT BOWDOIN FARM SCHOOL
GRADUATION EXERCISES, MARCH 1, 1941

AS AN ALUMNUS of Bowdoin Farm, I am glad to be back again to witness another graduation. You boys will soon be going out on jobs and I know you all want to be successful. I would like to give you some advice that will be useful in helping you make good on your job.

First, *you must be interested in your work and do more than you are paid for.* Don't say to yourself, "I won't work hard because I am not being paid for it." If you want to advance in your job and get a higher wage you must give more than you receive. A man hires you with the idea of making profit from your labor, not to break even.

The second rule is, *don't be idle at any time.* There is always work to do on a farm; you can curry cows, sweep down cobwebs, wash windows, and do many other odd jobs. There is no excuse for your being without work.

If you want to be liked by all, *do things willingly and cheerfully.* Don't hesitate to carry an armful of wood into the house or even help wash and dry dishes. By doing this you will make a hit with the entire family.

There are some habits that should be developed if you want to keep out of trouble.

You should always shut doors behind you and put out lights when leaving a building. A bull or a cow may do a considerable amount of damage when it gets out of the barn or pen. Also a big electric bill may cause a drop in your wages.

Develop the habit of putting things back where they belong. The boss doesn't like to see his tools lying around in different places where they were last used.

Do these things and you can't help but make good on your job.

You shouldn't be satisfied with being a hired man all your life. If you are interested in a certain field of agriculture go to school and follow it up. I advise you to work for one year and save all the money you can and then go to some agricultural school. The time and money you spend on education will be returned manyfold.

Credit, Planning, AND ADJUSTMENTS

By C. O. BRANNEN. *This article suggests the need for a more complete system of credit analysis, so that credit agencies can better serve themselves and farmers and facilitate adjustments in farming. Land-use planning is helping to meet that need.*



BORROWED CAPITAL

used in agriculture has the same function as credit used in other types of business. It is intended to supplement the resources already available in the hands of the producer. It may be used to increase the size or scope of operations, or it may be used to bring about internal adjustments as between the factors of production, enterprises, and activities. In the case of agriculture, particularly in Arkansas at the present time, credit may be needed to facilitate changes in enterprises or combinations of enterprises on the farm.

The value of credit to the individual and of a credit agency to the community is in the facility with which this supplement is used to increase the economic efficiency, in terms of income, of available private resources. While the user of credit, after the loan is granted, is held responsible for the outcome, credit institutions have some responsibility, for, in the process of making loans, they exert considerable influence upon the purpose for which credit is used and the effectiveness with which it is used. They may, through their credit policies, either encourage or discourage economic systems of

production.

The first thought on the part of the applicant for a loan is to estimate the addition to income to be expected from the use of the credit. The first thought on the part of the lender, I imagine, is to estimate the risk from the point of view of repayment, as affected by the personal factors involved, the resources of the borrower, and the prospective outcome of the business as a whole. This is prompted by the obligation felt by the administration of a credit agency to protect and preserve the resources of the institution. The value of a credit agency to the community and to itself, however, may be measured more largely by its ability to assist the applicant in evaluating the effect of the supplement in putting other resources to work and making them more efficient in income production.

One of the problems, whether from the point of view of the borrower or the lender, is in the lack of adequate information for evaluating the outcome of the business or for estimating the effect that the use of credit would have on the outcome. Customer-credit analysis, from this viewpoint, requires at least two sets of information. One is an interpretation of the prospective business

situation in terms of its effect on local business activities and prices, which may be obtained largely from second-hand sources.

The other is pertinent detailed information concerning the resources and operations of the individual business, which has to be obtained from the customer. This problem, I believe you will agree, is somewhat more difficult in the case of agriculture than in the case of most other types of business, partly on account of the time element and unpredictable natural factors and partly because the farm business is more complex than other types of equivalent size. Because of this complexity, it is more difficult to obtain adequate detailed information on operations. Business statements accompanying applications for credit on the part of merchants, for example, are more subject to "rule of thumb" analysis and interpretation than similar statements from farmers.

Improving Present Methods

Credit agencies serving agriculture in Arkansas, without more adequate information than is commonly available, in passing on applications for loans, have to rely rather largely on information about assets of the individual and the personal qualities involved, plus knowledge gained from experience in making loans in the community, rather than upon a more specific interpretation of the income capacity of the farm. The methods used, as far as they go, are no doubt essential and should not be discarded. The question is whether something else worth while could be added to present methods.

Agriculture in Arkansas is considerably diverse in the State at large, but from the viewpoint of enterprises

and operations it has a relatively high degree of uniformity in certain areas and local situations. All farms in the State have been classified into about 10 types, such as cotton, grain, fruit, and animal specialty farms, but most of these types tend to be relatively concentrated, geographically. The best examples are rice and certain fruits. The variations in type and concentration of individual types follow the natural environment, particularly as affected by temperature, soil, and topography. The variation in type within a local situation is more largely affected by the size of farms than by other factors.

What would be the effect, in terms of service to credit agencies and to farmers using credit, if farms in each county and community were classified by size and types of production and analyzed to show performance in respect to production, operating costs, net income, and the like?

Several years ago an effort was made to delineate type-of-farming areas in the State and to describe the characteristics of farming within each area. The effort at the present time is to carry this process down to the local situations within each type-of-farming area. The work is actually being handled by counties; it is county land use planning.

Within each county, local situations are being delineated according to the productivity of the land and types of enterprises on the farm. The farms within each of these areas are then classified according to size and use of land, from which, according to size and type of production, the gross income, operating expenses, net income, and other factors are being determined.

The product of this work, where a thorough job is done, will be a

practically complete picture of agriculture at work in each part of the county. Among the significant types of information shown which might be used for interpreting the need and use of credit are: Productivity and adaptability of land and soil; present use of the land for crop and livestock production, and recommended adjustments for the most profitable alternative uses; and a description of farming systems according to size, with interpretations of probability relative to gross value of production, production requirements and operating expenses, net cash income, and other factors, at given price levels.

If such a body of information were available on a local basis, it could be used by a credit agency to set up criteria, or measuring sticks, for guidance in evaluating individual applications for loans. The next step would be to obtain corresponding information from the applicant, from which it would be comparatively easy, I think, to interpret both the need for a given amount of credit

and its probable contribution, in terms of economic outcome of the business, to the user.

Handicap or Help

This method and procedure in evaluating applications for loans would be considerably different from certain "rule of thumb" methods which were common in certain parts of the State a few years ago and which may be used to some extent at the present time, whereby, for example, loans to cotton farmers may be based almost entirely on the acreage or prospective production of cotton on the individual farm and the prospective price of cotton at the time of harvest.

By this method the need and the opportunity to obtain credit are based on the staple crop. While cotton, rice, or other staple crop, as the only basis for credit, no doubt works satisfactorily where farming is limited to this type of production, at the present time in most parts of Arkansas, where efficiency in the use of

Closer

He works hard (for which no man is to be pitied), and often he lives hard (which may not be pleasant); but his life is passed in healthy surroundings, surroundings which tend to develop a fine type of citizenship. In the country, moreover, the conditions are fortunately such as to allow a closer touch between man and man, than, too often, we find to be the case in the city. Men feel more vividly the underlying sense of brotherhood, of community of interest.

—THEODORE ROOSEVELT

farm resources requires the use of some diversification, the policy of restricting farm loans to cotton or other staple crop acreage might become a real handicap to agriculture.

The significance of this problem may be indicated by the following conditions. The development of agriculture in the State has been based very largely on cultivated crop production, plus exploitation of the timberlands. This continues to be the primary emphasis, despite the fact that a high percentage of the land is not suitable for cultivation. In 1935, only about one-half of the land area in Arkansas was in farms, and less than one-half of the farm land was used for annually harvested crops. Observation indicates that noncrop lands, in many instances, contribute but little to farm income. Current trends are in the direction of releasing, except in the newer developing areas, still more land from cultivation.

It seems evident that agriculture in the State, since land is such an important element in farming, cannot be efficient unless all, or almost all, of the land yields some income. Otherwise the unused land, to the extent of the costs of investment and taxes, will be a burden. The use of some of the lands, however, in view of the emphasis on soil conservation and reduction of staple crops, will depend upon the development of new enterprises. Just what these enterprises should be will be determined by the availability of land on the farm and its adaptability to alternative types of production.

More specifically, in addition to bringing into more active use the lands which have historically lain idle in the State, for farmers to make adjustments in operations it will be necessary to reduce one enterprise, increase another, or add a new one, in order that they may make the most economical use of their lands and other facilities. Unless credit institutions take these changes into account, or where the staple crop is the only basis for obtaining a loan, farmers will have difficulty in making necessary adjustments and their operations may become considerably less efficient than they otherwise might be.

The foregoing suggestion as to how credit agencies might serve the farmers and themselves better by a somewhat more complete system of credit analysis has been pointed to short-term or seasonal credit. The same basic procedure, however, can be used in handling farm mortgage credit.

The estimates of annual incomes in a particular situation would give the credit agency a basis for determining the opportunity of the farmer to meet annual costs. In addition, however, as a means of determining the maximum amount of the loan per acre or per farm, there would need to be some further study of the relation of land values to farm incomes in each local situation. Information of this kind, it is believed, could be made available. If so, mortgage credit agencies would have a more certain basis for making loans and for supervising creditors.

Dark Days

IN THE BLACK BELT

By JAMES C. DOWNING. *FSA is seeking a practical solution for the problem of employment of poor farm families in the Alabama Black Belt by establishing cooperative leasing associations and promoting dairying as the chief source of income for individual families. The problem is a pressing one, and speed is needed to alleviate misery.*



THE BLACK BELT stretches in a broad crescent through most of 10 counties in Alabama, curving northward to a thin end in northeastern Mississippi. Deep, rich, black soils really gave the name, but the Belt is also predominantly a Negro area. The climate is the humid sub-South at its best. It should be a land of plaintive spirituals, tinkling banjos, and laughter.

But time has dealt harshly with the Black Belt of Alabama. King Cotton has fallen, and a host of miseries are besetting the destitute Negro population. Landless families crowd in already overcrowded quarters, go on relief, move in with cropper families, and maybe move out with them the next year. Doubling up is pathetic in single homes already having two families. Conditions in Mississippi are somewhat better, perhaps because dairying has been adopted more rapidly than in the Alabama areas.

In Colonial days, this rich land was shunned by settlers because they did not know how to handle the heavy soils. When methods for

handling it were discovered, a rush of settlers started. Vast plantations and stately homes were developed by highly educated men and others with broad experience in business, military, and national affairs. A few of these fine old homes have been restored by farmers operating under the "new order"—beef cattle. Most of them, however, are tumble-down relics. Many are gone completely.

When cotton was high in price, natural obstacles, including the boll weevil, Johnson grass infestation, and stiff, black soils hard to work, could be fought with some success. This is not so today. Largely because of these natural obstacles and low prices, cotton acreage has declined two-thirds since 1900. Corn and hay acreages meanwhile have increased, but not in proportion to the decrease in cotton. Pastures for beef cattle are taking the place of the cotton. The trend to beef cattle has been encouraged in recent months by the prospects for further increases in beef prices because of the preparedness program. Beef prices have remained firm or improved while prices for cotton have con-

tinued to decline.

Beef cattle are good for the land and the landowner, but no good for the cropper. There is little doubt that the beef cattle system is desirable for the landlord. It pays well, provides a good market for his grass and hay, and conduces to soil conservation. The cotton system was beginning to take its toll even on this fertile, well lying area, but a pasture economy will restore former productiveness.

But the beef-cattle system is not good for the croppers, because it utilizes so few of them. Work is so slack that approximately 600 families have been compelled to "double up" or leave the southern one-third of Hale County between December 1939 and January 1941. And the southern one-third of Hale County constitutes less than 4 percent of the total land area of the Black Belt of Alabama.

A Pasture Economy

The Black Belt is naturally suited to a type of farming involving the utilization of pasture. Grass and hay grow luxuriantly. The Black Belt is an area of the South that has commercial potentialities in dairy production. Pasture is ordinarily available for 11 months of the year, and cattle housing costs are relatively low. Legumes grow well on the lime soils, and oat yields are particularly good. The topography is level to gently rolling. Pasture acreages are available in huge contiguous blocks, and a stand of pasture grasses, unique for the South, is easy to obtain. Good stands of grass will come up without seeding following small-grain crops.

There is one drawback. Drinking water for farmsteads is difficult and

costly to obtain. It is necessary to drill from 1,000 to 2,000 feet before a satisfactory water supply can be found, and the well must be cased in all the way. This one fact has worked against the establishment of tenant purchase farm units by the Farm Security Administration. With land selling at \$10 to \$30 an acre, it is easy to see how the cost of a well could equal the cost of an entire 100-acre farm. Units have been in large acreages of land in the past. Few wells were drilled. Ponds supply the water for livestock and are fairly easy to build.

These natural advantages are slowly being recognized and, throughout the Black Belt, one sees signs of change. Several small towns have cattle sales weekly that never had them before, while Montgomery and Selma have continuous sales, with a substantial volume of business.

However, according to Jimmie Matthews, the county agent of Lowndes County, "We figure that beef cattle, at best, can employ only about one-fourth of the families in this county at the present time. That means, roughly, that if the present trend is continued, upward of 3,000 families will ultimately be displaced. We believe, however, that if dairying could be substituted for beef, not more than 1,200-1,500 families would ultimately have to move out."

Slow to Take

But dairying is a 7-day, four-o'clock-in-the-morning proposition. The milk-cow business is harder work than the beef-cattle enterprise; the latter is more like cotton than is dairying—labor is seasonal and hours shorter.

Beef-cattle men don't need much labor, and tenants or croppers with-

out work are people without homes. On only six farms in Hale County, 63 Negro families of a total of 148 have been moved within the last 2½ years. Plans are now in progress for removing all, except a dozen or so, of the remaining 85 families. Only enough families will be left to care for the beef cattle. The FSA plans to obtain these six tracts of land for a leasing cooperative. If that is accomplished, most of the 85 families may remain, and will be helped in finding a new way of life by the FSA.

In numerous other instances, farms formerly having 25 to 30 tenants now have only one or two. Cases have been observed where beef-cattle producers coming from other areas have brought their own trained help with them, thus displacing every family on the farm at the time beef-cattle production was initiated. In still other cases, the landlord simply leaves the croppers in the cabins, charging them a nominal rent but not providing them either "furnish" with which to "make a crop" or land on which to grow a crop.

Such families usually either leave or "hang on" as long as possible by getting an occasional day of labor at 50 cents, the going wage in the area.

Some of the older planters have not been able to make the rapid adjustments that "outsiders" purchasing land in the area have been able to make. The planters' Negroes have worked for them for generations, and the planters do not feel that that they can cast them out. Numerous families have been kept and "furnished" with rations long after it would have been to the distinct economic advantage of the landowner to eject them.

Hundreds of these unfortunate people—perhaps most of them—

crowd around the small towns of the area and get on relief or WPA. Many others move to larger cities and seek work there. Some few have crowded onto the bordering upland area, which has been notorious for its poor, eroded soils and desperately poor white farmers. Cabins are "pulled down" when families move out so that no other family can move in.

There is little doubt that hundreds of landlords have gone bankrupt trying to maintain the cotton system. One farmer that was interviewed gives us a clue to the situation:

"Last year I planted 265 acres of cotton. I got 15 bales where I should have got 200. It's been like that the last 4 years now. If it wasn't for my AAA check I would have had to dismiss my workers long ago. I'm just going to raise enough cotton from now on to keep my AAA base, and let the families live in their houses until they can find something else to do."

Dairying, the "Out"

Dairying can supply work for a sizable proportion of the families now in the Black Belt. It has been estimated that dairying will supply work for about 60 percent of the families, whereas beef-cattle production will supply work for less than 25 percent of the families. FSA recognizes the problem and is doing all in its power to alleviate it. Many families are involved, however, and opportunities for rehabilitation are limited.

True, hundreds of Black Belt families have been supplied "furnish" by the FSA, but such relief has been only temporary, and hundreds of these families no longer can get land

on which to grow crops even with "furnish" supplied them.

An attempt is being made by the FSA at this time to demonstrate how the problem might be solved through the establishment of leasing cooperatives, through which Negro families will be given an opportunity to rehabilitate themselves. Large acreages of land are being leased for these cooperatives. Each Negro family is to handle about 10 milk cows, growing the necessary grain and other feed.

These demonstrations should indicate how private landowners might utilize their holdings for a greater net income while at the same time providing employment for as large a number of families as possible. If Negro men can be trained to manage, feed, and milk cows, large operators now in the cattle business might go into dairying. This possibility has been demonstrated to some degree by the development of dairying in the Black Belt of Mississippi, a smaller area of this same Alabama-soil type.

The South has a very long way to go before it can even supply enough milk for its own population. All forms of dairy produce are shipped in every year, and thousands of people have far less milk products than are essential for an adequate minimum diet. It has been determined, for example, that not more than 40 percent of the families in the Black Belt, itself, have even one milk cow.

The problem of the Black Belt is admittedly a tough one. Higher beef prices and large cotton surpluses are accentuating the shift from cotton to cattle, which in turn is displacing hundreds of families every month. Will it be possible to help these families in time? The Government is doing all it can at present, but the problem involves so many families that additional outside help is needed. At the moment, some Negroes are obtaining work in war industries in the North. Just how many of these can get work up there, in face of the many obstacles involved in moving families and in getting jobs after families are moved, no one knows. Many next year will still be "jest settin' heah."

Service

And he gave it for his opinion, that whoever could make two ears of corn, or two blades of grass, to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country, than the whole race of politicians put together.

—SWIFT



Books

FEEDING THE PEOPLE IN WAR-TIME. *Sir John Orr and David Lubbock.*
MacMillan and Co. London. 88 pages.

by RONALD L. MIGHELL

THE IMPLICATIONS of this little book reach far beyond the title—beyond the British people and war time. American agricultural planners may well consider the concluding words:

"It is foolish to imagine that we need only temporary food measures, and that after the War we shall come back to 1938 conditions. The War is in the convulsive end of an epoch. When it finishes 1938 may seem as far away as 1038. No one can foresee the future, but we hope when the fighting finishes we will start to build a new world with a better social and economic system than the past one, which is ending in the present war.

"Food was one of the decisive factors in the War of 1914-18. It may be even more important in this War. Victory will depend as much on the morale and powers of endurance of the civilian population as on the efficiency of the fighting forces. (These powers) * * * cannot be maintained unless the whole population is on a diet good enough to maintain it in health."

The authors note that Germany is more nearly self-sufficing with respect to food than in 1914-18. The lack of nitrate fertilizer, so great then, is no longer a factor, because of the development of processes for getting nitrogen from the air. As the book was

written before Dunkerque, it may be assumed that the German food position is even stronger now. What may happen within the captive nations is, of course, another question.

THE FOOD SITUATION for Great Britain, they suggest, may become more serious than in World War I and current events are heavily underscoring this possibility. In the recent pre-war years, Britain produced not much more than 30 percent of the food consumed by her people. In 1917-18, when a great effort was made to increase food production, the increase equaled only about 8 percent of Britain's total requirements. The authors think "we could do better today if we had a policy designed for maximum food production per acre."

Orr and Lubbock estimate that the men in the fighting forces will need about 25 or 30 percent more calories a day than in peacetime occupations, and that the food requirements of formerly unemployed persons will be increased perhaps 30 percent. These two influences together will increase the total national energy requirement between 5 and 10 percent.

One definite advantage possessed by the British is that in the past 25 years they have had significant increases in the per capita consumption

of the protective foods so essential in good diets and good morale. Furthermore, the rate of increase has been greater in recent years. But most of the improvement has occurred in the diet of the upper-income groups.

It is pointed out that "the two most expensive foods are milk and vegetables." American agricultural economists will find it revealing to read the analysis of the milk situation.

At the outbreak of war about 40 percent of the milk produced in England was surplus above the quantity used for fluid consumption. The most human food can be obtained from milk by consuming it as whole milk rather than as butter, cheese, or other more concentrated dairy products.

"Hence the surplus should be made available on the cash-and-carry basis for those willing to take the trouble to get it at, say, 1s. per gallon." As sufficient milk to bring the consumption of low-income people "up to two-thirds of a pint per head per day is already being produced there would be no great cost to the nation in making it available on the cash-and-carry basis" at little more than its value for butter or other surplus dairy products.

"It would cost very little to push a full bottle of milk across the counter in exchange for an empty bottle and the money. * * * The sale of milk would help to bring other customers. There are many shops which would be willing to undertake the additional trade for a very low margin."

This will be strong medicine for many individuals on this side when considered with the following: "The food requirements of the civilian

population in War are not essentially different from the requirements in peace. If the War food policy be based on health needs, the increased production of protective foods advocated here, subsidies to bring them within the reach of the poor, and the better organization of wholesale distribution could, with great advantage, be retained permanently."

The present official British food program definitely shows the influence of the thinking of men like Orr and Lubbock. The principle of assuming an even distribution to all persons regardless of income has been accepted. Rationing, price control, and direct subsidies to compensate for losses from fixed maximum prices are all in the picture.

NOW THAT aid to Britain under the Lend-Lease Act is certain to include substantial shipments of food, there is no longer any doubt that an increasing proportion of the British wartime food imports will come from the United States. The menace of submarine and air attacks on merchant vessels means that the short haul from North America will be used more and more in the effort to get the most use from available shipping.

Orr and Lubbock's chapter on food-import policy discusses the economy of shipping space for different foods. In terms of energy value per cubic foot of shipping space, *butter* comes first, followed in descending order by fats, sugar, cheese, wheat, dried fruits, bacon, frozen beef, eggs in shell. Butter has about 12 times as much energy value per cubic foot of shipping space as eggs. Cheese, wheat, and dried fruits are about on a par with one another, and are 40 percent higher than bacon.

There are other considerations than energy value, but if the British are successful in producing a considerable portion of the necessary "protective" foods at home, energy values may become the principal determinant. Orr and Lubbock place bacon, beef, and eggs rather low on the list of priority of food imports.

It must be emphasized, however, that their priority conclusions depend not only upon how narrow the bridge of ships across the Atlantic

becomes, but also upon how home production and marketing in England will be handled. This reviewer believes there is room for doubt about their assumptions on this point. Furthermore, recent research in nutrition reveals that pork, for example, is more of a protective food than formerly realized. Hence in our policy of aid to Britain, pork (bacon) probably deserves a place second only to concentrated dairy products.

CORN BREAD AND CREEK WATER. *Charles Morrow Wilson*. Henry Holt and Company. New York. 309 pages.

by ROBERT C. TETRO

"* * * THE TRULY sufficient book on rural poverty will never be written with ink or paper. It will be written, and it is being written, with human blood and sweat, on the faces of invincible growing fields."

This is the conclusion reached by Mr. Wilson after 290 pages of reminiscing, analyzing, and quoting on rural poverty. He appraises the problems and programs of rural poverty all over the Nation and suggests avenues for a better approach to these problems. His discussion is doubtfully scientific, but it is interesting and stimulating. The reader's conclusion will probably be similar to Mr. Wilson's; a "truly sufficient" story will be written only as the "moving finger writes."

There are spots in this book that contain excellent advice. These alone justify the writing. Then, too, the kaleidoscopic shot of rural poverty is well written, if at times lacking constancy in logic. Poverty-stricken croppers and hill folk are

amusingly shuffled with a millionaire rancher and Aristocrat potatos. But the book is neither a good analysis nor a just presentation of our rural poverty, and the tone itself was in places very unsatisfactory to this reviewer. Mr. Wilson pulls no punches and at times seems to disregard the belt.

His characterization of Henry A. Wallace is among the most unfair I have seen. It will amaze those who really know Mr. Wallace either personally or professionally. In agriculture, Mr. Wallace was anything but "* * * a little known, philosophically bent editor." Years before he became Secretary, Mr. Wallace was an internationally known geneticist and agricultural economist. As Secretary, he became a humanitarian and a still better practical economist, and, in this country, a front-rank champion of equality for agriculture. He was an inspiration to those working with him to make headway against tremendous prejudices that

are helped little if any by analysis such as Mr. Wilson's.

On the other hand, only a nice understanding of rural problems could have sponsored this statement by Mr. Wilson:

"The redeeming hope lies in proved possibilities for reducing the stringency of rural poverty, for alleviating or avoiding its more severe tolls of human suffering and degradation. Though we classify rural poverty as relatively inevitable we are not entitled to forego attention to its direr extremities. It is not necessarily inevitable that four-fifths of this Nation's farm income should be received by one-third of our farm population, or that the entire rural third of our people should continue to earn little or no more than one-tenth of the national income. There is no preordained fate which separates farm and town by high and impenetrable walls. There is no sacred oracle to deny that rural Americans shall be contemporary citizens."

THIS GROWING INTERDEPENDENCE of farm and city has a further significance that makes it difficult for rural America to adopt the conservation-subsistence, lord-of-all-I-survey, farming system recommended by Mr. Wilson. Streamlined farm living has untold benefits that cannot be achieved by going back to widespread subsistence homesteading. The finger of scorn is perhaps incorrectly pointed by Mr. Wilson. Much of our rural poverty arises from the inability of industrial leadership either conscientiously to maintain employment or inventively to create new employment. As a result, underemployed and unemployed labor backs up in

rural areas to share what is too often a mighty small loaf. This latter phase is, of course, compounded by the failure of rural areas to train their youth in new and old skills of industry, or, for that matter, in agriculture. In this respect, Mr. Wilson does an excellent job of castigating our rural educational system.

A better national approach than back-to-the-land movements was pointed out by Chester Davis in an address last month at Kansas City, Mo.:

"For generations agricultural leaders have urged upon farmers the advantages of well-diversified and well-balanced systems of agriculture. But diversification of agriculture is only one step along the way. The full route is diversification of the economy—a diversification which encompasses both agriculture and industry. A full balance is only achieved when the community has alternative sources of both agricultural and industrial income."

OUR GREATEST problem today is defense. Our greatest problem tomorrow will be the continuation of present industrial activity for peacetime defense against poverty, rural and urban. The answer to tomorrow's problem, well illustrated in Mr. Wilson's book, cannot be found by sending unwanted soldiers and unemployed citizens out to starve gracefully "in the country."

One must commend Mr. Wilson's keenness in sensing one growing, vital phase of modern agriculture when he says,

"Any study of rural poverty cannot avoid the new importance of livestock to the rural scene. Livestock industries are today one of the soundest hopes of rural America. Love

of the animal now emerges as an outstanding American mood, whether in town or in country. In terms of rural life, improvement of the animal is unquestionably the surest course for bettering our land and the lives of men and women who are tied to that land."

And yet, Mr. Wilson missed the surge of livestock farming now under way in the South.

Nicely inconsistent in his occasional sorties into economics, he flailed the Resettlement Administration for daring to delimit marginal areas without a soil survey and then turned a page to announce blandly that 20,000,000 Americans live "on the margin"—they, evidently, had been subject to a survey, and on what an accurate margin!

BUT WHAT of the successor to Resettlement's problems, the Farm Security Administration? Page after

page can be scrutinized with a certainty that the next would tell of this new and potentially effective weapon of the Government against poverty. One is sure that it will pop up just after rural rehabilitation is somewhat summarily dismissed. It doesn't. The book ends with a section on the future of rural poverty, in which the author discusses farm chemurgy, wildlife to the rescue, recreation, industrial advertising, and other concepts that lend themselves to generalization.

All in all, however, the book has many worth-while elements of sage advice and pertinent criticism.

It is difficult to forsake the numerous discussions that Mr. Wilson stimulates. The picture is not new, but it is nationally more complete than most and is well worth the few hours needed to read it. By reading between the lines, one can see some of the more critical of our modern problems.

THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL PRESS 1819-1860. *Albert Lowther Demaree*. Columbia University Studies in the History of American Agriculture No. 8. Columbia University Press. New York. 430 pages.

by SIMON E. BOURGIN

IT IS INTERESTING that in all of the literature of American agricultural institutions this is the first history of the farm press to be written. And it is not, as its author points out, exactly a history of the farm press. Up to the time of the Civil War the United States was predominantly an agricultural nation, more than 80 percent of her people gaining their living from the soil in the period from 1819 to 1860. Dr. Demaree's aim is to provide a

picture of rural life during this period as seen through the 400-odd agricultural periodicals produced in the interval.

If the reader persists through the accumulation of Dr. Demaree's scholarship, it can be said that a picture of American rural life in the first half of the nineteenth century emerges. The author has selected a limited number of the leading journals of the period and set down a wealth of thoroughly documented

detail regarding their editors, content, and subscribers. But there is little attempt to correlate and extract significance from the mass of biographical material presented, and a chapter on the significance of the agricultural press does not explain the significance of the early farm press at all.

Dr. Demaree sees the farm journals as the first important means of scientific education in agriculture available to the farmer. The early farmer lacked the advantages of agricultural schools, experiment stations, and modern farm implements. He was ignorant of the principles of animal and plant breeding and plant nutrition, and depended on the phases of the moon to guide his farm procedure. It was not for nothing that the almanac, with its astrological time tables, was a universal possession in the American farm home in the nineteenth century.

THE FARM JOURNALS had their faults, but they were the most important influence in convincing the farmer that astrology was not scientific agriculture. Improvements in farming accomplished by initiative and experiment on the part of individual farmers were publicized widely in the agricultural press. The advantages of crop rotation and deep and horizontal plowing, and the need for sustaining the strength of the soil by manuring, draining, and good tillage were constantly emphasized.

The farm editors did their best to popularize new farm implements and machinery, and made their offices exchange centers for new and useful ideas in farming. Rare and valuable seeds received by the editors from all over the world were distrib-

uted to farmers free, the editor of the *American Agriculturalist* reporting the distribution of more than a million parcels of seed to his farmer correspondents.

The editors campaigned first for a national school of agriculture, then for agricultural colleges endowed by the individual states, though there appear to have been startlingly few persons equipped to instruct in agricultural science at the time. The editors' demands for federal land donations were an important contribution in obtaining passage of the Morrill Land Grant Act. The opening of the whole field of state and federal assistance to farmers was an indirect result of agitation in the farm press. The papers fought aggressively for the appointment of state chemists to analyze soils, state appropriations for agricultural and geological surveys, crop bounties, and rewards for the eradication of insect pests. The demands of the farm editors for a Federal Department of Agriculture played an important part in its creation in 1862.

IN AN AGE which had little time for beauty, the editors did their best to make farm living more attractive. The household and farmyard designs which they popularized do not look handsome today, but they were a genuine effort to free the farm from the restraints of the Greek classical style which clothed the architecture and design of the period.

While the editors sought constantly to draw the attention of their readers to improvements in agriculture, they displayed a curious indifference and lack of awareness in regard to other issues. "Politics, and the discussion of slavery in its controversial aspects—the major

troublemakers of the period—were quite generally taboo in the journals." Edmund Ruffin, editor of the *Farmers Register* and one of the earliest and most fervent advocates of slavery in the South, discussed only the nonpolitical aspects of slavery in his paper. The editor of the *Western Farmer and Gardener* characteristically announced: "It is part of our compact with our subscribers not to talk politics," and the editor of the *Prairie Farmer* deleted, as inadmissible to an agricultural journal, a portion of a correspondent's letter which dealt with a phase of politics.

FARMER READERS undoubtedly bought their farm journals first of all to learn about the improvements in agriculture in their own regions. A reader of the *Farmers Cabinet* pleaded with the editor not to fill his paper with "speeches at agricultural fairs" and "controversies about ploughs." * * * What we want to know, is how to raise the greatest amount from a certain quantity of ground, with the least labour and expense. Give us the facts, my dear sir, with the *modus operandi*."

While editors undoubtedly felt this kind of pressure, it is still curious, as Dr. Demaree reports, that the editors "in general, and as late as 1860, recognized no sectional antagonism" and were of the growing opinion that the sectional crisis leading to the Civil War was due to the "one horse" politicians who were running the country.

The author's claim that farm editors regarded their professions from a nationalistic point of view and were able to rise above local animosities is no explanation. When a reader wrote: "Mr. Editor, it is not enough for me to hear that a

man is a patriot—he must be a *Virginia* patriot," he was not being "less broadminded," as the author says, but was only expressing the sectional conflict to which many editors apparently were blind.

EVEN THE TARIFF issue was shunned by many papers. The *Southern Planter* in 1845 announced it "had nothing to do" with the "great question of the policy of affording governmental protection to manufactures because, it has been made a political and party question, and this is a pool much too foul and turbid for our taste."

This reluctance to engage in politics would amaze the editors of the great farm journals of today, as well as the causes to which the early farm editors ascribed business ills. Panics were variously ascribed to the "prevalent impatience to get rich faster than one's neighbor," the unwillingness of cultivators to remain on the farm, and to almost any factor but government. In fact the *Cultivator* declared the degree to which government had contributed to the 1837 depression and "the power of the administration to afford relief * * * are questions which it is not our province or intention here to discuss."

None of the editors, as the author says, ever hesitated to take a stand "on problems of interest to cultivators."

A controversy on whether the wheat plant underwent a biological transmutation into chess raged in the agricultural press for half a century. Also, the editors seem to have regarded the moral behavior of their readers as completely within their domain as their political beliefs were without it. Stirring editorial cam-

paigns were waged on almost every conceivable moral subject, against the "demon rum"; against tobacco, "one of the greatest evils of the world"; against the supplying of a barrel of whiskey to farmers during the harvest season; against that "den of iniquity," the city; and against the hiring out of farmers' daughters as hired help.

Many of the editors were also ministers, doctors, teachers, or farmers. This may explain some of their high moral concern and the sectarianism of their journals.

It is interesting, in any case, to reflect that this was, in city journalism, an age of great editors—James Gordon Bennett, Horace Greeley, Henry Raymond—who filled their papers with debate and discussion on national expansion, slavery, secession, and a dozen other issues of the day.

IN CONTENT the farm journal was not greatly different from today's farm newspaper. The formula of John Stuart Skinner, the appearance of whose *American Farmer* in 1819 the author regards as the beginning of farm journalism, is surprisingly modern: "One half, or four pages, devoted to practical Agriculture; the remainder to Internal Improvements; Rural and Domestic Economy; selections for housekeepers and female readers; and Natural History and Rural Sports."

There was a considerable amount of poetry in the journals, a good deal of it about the virtues of the farm and the vices of the city. The earliest farm papers had a "Ladies Department," and Hannah M. Tracy, signed "Aunt Patience," preceded Dorothy Dix by almost a hundred years.

The editors, who often sold seed and machinery in shops adjoining their offices, were sometimes their own best advertisers, though after the middle of the century the journals gradually divorced themselves from their business connections. By 1860 paid advertising took from 10 to 20 percent of the paper's content, compared to around 5 percent at the beginning of the period.

It was, as the author points out, largely a gentleman farmer's press. Gentlemen farmers were its chief supporters in many regions, especially the South, and few of the improvements which the journals campaigned for penetrated to the common dirt farmer, who was in fact unfriendly to many of the new reforms. At the end of the period the 50 or 60 journals estimated to be active reached about a quarter of a million subscribers.

Much of the research on the volume was done in the library of the Department of Agriculture, which has the most complete collection of American farm periodicals extant.

Knowledge

The science of husbandry is extremely profitable to those who understand it; but it brings the greatest trouble and misery upon those farmers who undertake it without knowledge.

—XENOPHON

LEADERSHIP FOR RURAL LIFE. *Dwight Sanderson*. Association Press. New York. 127 pages.

by RAYMOND F. SLETTTO

THE ENLISTMENT or development of leaders has become an urgent problem for educators, extension workers, and other administrators in many rural communities, particularly in view of the increased emphasis on democratic participation by farmers in the planning and execution of the newer agricultural programs. The hope that this book will be useful to those facing this problem is expressed by Dr. Sanderson, who has made available here the materials developed in his seminar on rural leadership over the past 10 years.

This is essentially a handbook for those who wish a concise treatment of useful sociological and psychological principles for guidance in their communities, rather than a treatise for research workers seeking a comprehensive summary of the objective studies in leadership. The author has achieved a simple statement of principles based more on common sense than on research findings, a statement making no demands upon the reader for acquaintance with technical vocabulary.

The rural leader, rich in the wisdom derived from wide experience, will recognize here some of the truths he has learned and would like to transmit to the young leader destined to replace him. Clearly, it is a mature treatment resting upon careful thought over a period of years about the problems faced by the recruit to the ranks of leadership and the advice he needs if he is to get from his group the support required for effective action.

THE FIRST HALF of the volume is devoted to a consideration of sociological and psychological principles and theories of leadership. This is followed by chapters on the development and training of leaders, and a final chapter on the meaning and value of leadership to the person who leads. The treatment of these subjects is necessarily brief within the limits of a small book, intended to provide the reader with an introduction rather than a thorough analysis of the whole field of rural leadership.

Inasmuch as studies of rural leadership are widely dispersed and difficult of access to the nonspecialist, a comprehensive analysis and summary of these materials should be provided soon to aid readers whose interest has been stimulated by treatments such as this by Sanderson or that by Walter Burr in his book entitled *Community Leadership*. One finds surprisingly little overlapping between this book and the work by Burr, which will continue to be a useful reference book for rural leaders.

Sanderson's discussions of the important functions of the leader center around his roles as spokesman, harmonizer, planner, executive, and educator of his associates. The function of education is considered to be of particular importance for rural leaders inasmuch as the performance of this role by the leader requires a willingness on the part of his associates to assume the role of learners, as well as a recognition that the leader knows their situation well enough to be of help to them.

CASE STUDIES are cited in which the failure of a professional leader can be traced to his lack of appreciation of the need to be accepted by the community as one of them, before he proposes changes in community affairs. Otherwise, these proposals may appear to involve an assertion of superiority by the newcomer over those who have not yet accepted him as an equal.

Sanderson does not agree with the view that a scarcity of leaders in a community can be traced in most instances to the kind of people who live there. He cites the Country Life Movement of the past generation as one demonstration of how leadership can be developed and trained. Moreover, he maintains that farm men and women are increasingly assuming their rightful place as rural leaders, and are becoming less dependent upon village business and professional men for direction. This change is ascribed to the effects of such social changes as the improvement of education and communication, and to the training obtained in

the various rural organizations now in operation.

The success of the professional leader is declared to be measurable in terms of the degree to which he is able to stimulate, discover, develop, and train primary group leaders. In a sense, then, the professional leader is most successful when his community becomes least dependent upon him for direct leadership. Following up the implications of this position, what is the professional leader to do when his time is decreasingly absorbed in the direct leading of groups?

Sanderson does not answer this question, but it seems probable that the leader will increasingly become an advisor, technician, and research worker upon whom the primary group leaders may call for assistance. Such a division of labor would permit the professional leader to be most of all an educator, a role he is best qualified to fill by virtue of his technical knowledge. This little book by Sanderson seems likely to hasten the day when such a division of labor will be more fully attained.

VANGUARDS OF THE FRONTIER. *Everett Dick*. D. Appleton-Century Company. New York. 574 pages.

by CAROLINE B. SHERMAN

FRONTIERS CONTINUE to fascinate scholars and general readers alike. As in the case of all vanishing possessions, our appreciation of them intensifies as they escape from our ownership.

After long and close study this historian-author passes these vanguards again in review. They were composed of the fur companies with the

attendant hunters and trappers, the miners and lumbermen, the men at the military outposts, the Indian agents, and missionaries. These were followed by the trade caravans, the migration of the Mormons, the Oregon trailers, the gold rush. Then came the pony express, the telegraph, stagecoaches, and overland freighters. And always there

was waste of rich resources. With the extension of the railroads many thought that the frontiers had been conquered but the settlers found plenty of obstacles when they tried to build a good western representation of the life they had left behind.

Changing uses of the land are implicit in conquest, settlement, and development. The vast cattle ranges hold the spotlight during the years of free grass, unlimited grazing, extensive herding and drives, growth of great cattle enterprises, excitements of rustling, and cattlemen and cowboy life generally. Then came the multitudes of sheep with their different demands and ways of life. When they in turn gave way to the farm families who applied dry-land practices, the army

of America may be said to have overtaken and ridden down its own vanguards.

The now rather well-known story is entertainingly told. Romance, inherent in the personalities of many in the advance detachments and their bizarre experience, breaks through on occasional pages. Oddities of persons and incidents are here, with touches of a theatric nature. Excessive footnoting is avoided through the use of a long classified bibliography, and reproductions of old prints and other illustrations are frequent. The final chapter summarizes the unique characteristics of the pioneering people and emphasizes the meaning of the frontiers in our national development.

Finally, and as the sum of my conviction, we need more thought, more study, more intellect, infused into our agriculture, with less blind devotion to a routine which, if ever judicious, has long since ceased to be so. The tillage which a pioneer, fighting single-handed and all but empty-handed with a dense forest of giant trees, which he can do no better than to cut down and burn, found indispensable among their stumps and roots, is not adapted to the altered circumstance of his grandchildren. If our most energetic farmers would abstract 10 hours each per week from their incessant drudgery, and devote them to reading and reflection with regard to their noble calling, they would live longer, live to better purpose, and bequeath a better example, with more prosperity, to their children.

—HORACE GREELEY



For Your Attention

RURAL SOCIOLOGY PAMPHLETS NOS. 11, 15, 16. By W. F. Kumlien, C. Scandrette, and Raymond Hatch. Brookings, South Dakota, Agricultural Experiment Station of the South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Department of Rural Sociology. 1941. Processed.

A recent issue of LAND POLICY REVIEW contained a brief note concerning four pamphlets relating to the declining enrollment problem in the elementary schools of South Dakota. Here are three more such pamphlets describing the situation in three additional counties of the State—Minnehaha, McCook, and Brown.

As in the other counties discussed, the major factor contributing to the decline in enrollments is said to be the falling birth rate. Migration of population out of the State is responsible for only a fraction of the decrease. Proceeding to a point where per pupil costs for operating the smaller district schools are becoming prohibitive, these declining enrollments are engaging the attention of authorities in the counties affected.

Suggested solutions involve cooperation with nearby rural schools; sending tuition pupils to town schools; reorganizing the rural school system on a county-wide district basis; or the incorporation of several small districts into a consolidated district large enough to insure an adequate number of pupils and a sufficient base for support.

THE LAND. A Quarterly published by Friends of the Land. Vol. I, No. I, Winter, 1941. 1212 DuPont Circle Building, Washington. Russell Lord, editor.

What Russell Lord touches comes to life, and the waited-for magazine that he edits is a living thing. Its chief point is its vitality. Almost equal to that is its beauty.

Obviously, this first issue is experimental,

and much of the material is reprinted stuff and pretty thin. But that is inconsequential; as people used to say, a good start has been made that augurs well for the future. It won't be long before the magazine is established as an important addition to the cause of conservation.

Friends of the Land was established a year ago as a nonprofit, nonpartisan society for the conservation of soil, rain, and man. Morris L. Cooke is president; Charles E. Holzer, first vice president; and Joshua Evans, jr., treasurer. Much of the first number of the magazine grew out of the organization meeting of the Society. Besides, there are a poem and an experience story by M. S. Oneal; an article by Jonathan Daniels on Hugh Bennett; two bits of foreign correspondence; several delightful pages of field notes by Mr. Lord, and other poems and articles, and sketches and decorations by Kate Lord.

Vol. I, No. I of The Land is definitely a magazine to beg, buy, or borrow, and read—and to watch grow.

NEW FARMS ON NEW LAND. Carl P. Heisig and Marion Clawson. Washington, D. C. Bureau of Agricultural Economics in cooperation with Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station and Farm Security Administration. (Report No. 4, Migration and Settlement on the Pacific Coast.) Processed. 123 pages.

This study of the economic situation of settlement on the Vale and Owyhee reclamation projects, Malheur County, Oregon, is the first to be completed of 12 proposed reports dealing with the problems of migration and settlement on the Pacific Coast. The number assigned (No. 4) reflects its logical place in the series.

Of the three major sections into which the report is divided, the first contains suggestions for economic development of future reclamation areas based on conditions found in the Vale and Owyhee projects. These suggestions have to do with type and

physical limits of farming, size of farm, credit, land and water policies, rate of development within projects, settler selection and the settlement process, and special technical assistance to settlers.

The digest of Vale-Owyhee area analysis discusses the series of changes begun when irrigation water is brought to raw land, and the problems these changes have caused on these two projects, where more than 1,000 new farms have been established since 1930. The problems are listed as: Farm development following settlement, limiting factors in farm development, farm income, financial progress, credit, the people and their living, market outlets, activities of governmental agencies, and ability of farms to repay debt.

The third section, detailed analysis of the Vale and Owyhee projects, Malheur County, Oregon, contains topics as follows: A description of the area, characteristics of settlers, farm organization, financial results of farming, problems of farm and area adjustment, and social conditions and attitudes.

An appendix contains explanatory notes and statistical tables.

This series of reports should prove valuable in surveying the volume of the movement in recent years of displaced rural families from the Great Plains and other regions to the Pacific Coast States, and in presenting the critical problems of readjustment encountered, both by the migrants and by older residents of the areas into which the migrants have gone.

TRENDS IN DAIRYING BY MAJOR TYPE-OF-FARMING REGIONS. W. F. Finner and Ronald L. Mighell. U. S. D. A. Technical Bulletin 751. January 1941.

This report examines the changes in milk production and numbers of milk cows that have taken place in the United States since 1928. Of the major type-of-farming regions, the survey showed that four—the dairy region, the Cotton Belt, the Corn Belt, and the general farming region—accounted for about 75 percent of the total increase in numbers of milk cows during the period.

In terms of additional milk production, three regions—the dairy region, the Cotton Belt, and the Corn Belt—were found to have produced about 65 percent of the total increase.

From 1928 to 1938, total milk produc-

tion on farms in the United States increased about 12 percent. Trends in milk production and in manufactured dairy products are discussed. Changes in production in selected areas are listed for the Cabot-Marshfield Area, Vt., Dodge County, Wis., and for three selected areas in the South—Northeastern Texas, South Central Tennessee, and East Central Mississippi.

This report "may be considered an initial step in a more complete analysis leading to careful estimates of probable long-time supply responses or trends for each region, under each of several possible sets of price relationships."

In addition to the text, the story is told by means of statistical tables and charts. A colored map showing regionalized types of farming in the United States is included.

A REPORT ON THE STATE OF YOUR NATION. A reprint of three articles and one photographic report, that appeared in the February and March issues of McCall's Magazine.

Pare Lorentz, Maxine Davis, Jonathan Daniels, and photographers of the Farm Security Administration "report" under the captions *What We Are About to Defend*, *Women in the War*, *I Watched America Awake to War*, *Boom Town*, *U. S. A.*, and *Children . . . The Last Line of Defense*.

Intriguing color pictograms introduce the first. They tell us, among other things, that the Western Hemisphere contains 29 percent of the earth's surface and one-eighth of the world's population; of 270,000,000 people, 136,000,000 are below safety-line standards for food, houses, and health. These must be protected against invasion or control by the Old World.

How are we to do it? By moving on all fronts, military, economic, cultural, and diplomatic. Mr. Lorentz says that we can do it only "if we throw our resource reports and our income reports and our estimates of our own power out the window and live up to our real potential of men and machines and materials," and that "it is our obligation to see that the son of any citizen of the Americas . . . shall have an equal opportunity to become a leader of his people."

Miss Davis outlines the role of women in the present emergency both in regard to their need for work and industry's need for their services.

Mr. Daniels traveled widely and found that the boom had hit most everywhere, most unexpectedly. With it came the necessity for finding adequate supplies of workers, and problems of housing, feeding, and recreation for them—sometimes in small communities which mushroomed over night into important centers for defense production, often in established industrial cities. The writer says that most of the people think the boom won't last and that they are less afraid of war tomorrow than they are of no work tomorrow. He thinks that "maybe the basic problem of Defense is to make them believe in a better America for themselves and men like themselves . . ."

Two questions in connection with California's \$228,000,000 Central Valley Project, whose Shasta Dam will be second only to the Grand Coulee, are raised by Walter E. Packard in the March 24 issue of *THE NEW REPUBLIC*. (The project will lessen flood damage; improve navigation on the Sacramento River; provide a dependable supply of irrigation water in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, and in the delta; and develop 1,500,000,000-kilowatt hours of electricity.)

The questions are: Who is to distribute the power—the Federal government, municipal or district organizations, or the Pacific Gas & Electric Co.? Is the policy under the Reclamation Act, limiting water supply to holdings 160 acres or less, a wise one in view of the tenancy, nonresident ownership, and large-scale industrial farming which characterizes this area?

Mr. Packard believes that only distribution by municipalities or districts will achieve the objectives of the Central Valley Project Act, "the welfare and benefits of the people of the State, improvement of their prosperity and their living conditions," and pass on to consumers in lower rates profits which may exceed \$100,000,000 during the 40-year repayment period.

Figures on concentration of land ownership, profits from owner-managed tracts of land, and the general industrialization of agriculture, lead this writer to the conclusion that forcing land into a family-pattern here may be unwise. Instead, he recommends large-scale operation by a "village type of settlement"—under government aegis—as an answer to the well-known social and economic problems that exist in this area.

SOCIAL INSURANCE AND AGRICULTURE: A Memorandum Presenting Suggestions for Research and a Bibliography. Social Science Research Council, Committee on Social Security. Pamphlet Series 5. 93 pages. Washington, D. C. 1940.

The need for research in the field of social insurance in relation to agriculture lies in the fact that all Federal and State legislation dealing with social insurance in the United States explicitly excludes from coverage all persons in agricultural employment. The chief reasons for this exclusion are listed by the author as: (1) administrative difficulties due to the widely scattered nature of the agricultural plant and the diverse types of employment to be found in the industry; (2) the lack of political support for the extension of such coverage; and (3) economic obstacles, the low levels of farm profit and farm wages making it questionable whether either could carry the additional burden of social security taxes.

Factors contributing toward this social insecurity of agriculture are listed as low rural income; rural employment characteristics; inadequacy of agricultural employment office systems; and the instability of farm tenure.

In discussing the capacity of agriculture to support a social insurance program, Mr. Hopkins says "The assumption . . . that agriculture cannot support a social insurance program has been verified only in part. Competent economic studies of the subject are imperative if a basis for intelligent judgment is to be provided."

Probable consequences of programs for social insurance coverage and research and the circumstance of war are discussed. Pages 38 to 93 consist of a classified unannotated bibliography.

The life of the husbandman—a life fed by the bounty of the earth and sweetened by the airs of heaven.

—DOUGLAS JERROLD



Letters

The Farmer at Sixty-five

SIR:

HERE INDEED is a dilemma—the farmer who would like to retire because of age but cannot do so, and the younger man who cannot become established in farming because of shortage of farms and lack of financial backing. It is in the same category as the problem of the great surpluses of wheat, cotton, and other agricultural products on the one hand, and the great number of unemployed and needy people on the other.

The breakdown in the structure which would permit the farmer to exchange some of his products for the labor of city workers thereby furnishing them purchasing power in order that he might buy back needed products, even the mattresses, sheets, overalls and other cotton goods needed, illustrates this problem.

This same clearing house or medium of exchange is needed in order to bring about the necessary adjustment of the farmer not wanting to continue farming up to capacity of the farm, not fully utilizing the land resources (low pressure farming) because of limited labor available, but not being able to quit because of lack of opportunity to invest his savings to return sufficient income and because of lack of desirable living conditions.

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Hady, in the April LAND POLICY REVIEW, suggest the establishment of such a clearing house.

The present governmental program with the purchase of farms by the Tenant Purchase Division of the Farm Security Administration, and the sale of Government baby bonds offers an approach to the solution of the first two problems; i. e., the

lack of opportunities to dispose of farms on an equitable basis and the lack of satisfactory investment opportunities for proceeds from the sale. Perhaps the present attack on the problem should be supplemented by a more decentralized approach.

I say, let's try it and see how it works—for no other reason than the recognition of the fact that the experimental method has been neglected in social and economic research.

The third problem of suitable homes for farmers seeking retirement is more perplexing and more challenging. Because the returns on capital savings are so low from the avenues of secure investment, and because the farmer does not have his management returns on this capital after leaving the farm, there is need for the maximum living to be obtained from the unit to add to the cash income to furnish a satisfactory level of living.

Therefore, retirement units must be carefully planned. The location is important as is the set-up of the unit to provide for maximum opportunity for a subsistence program, minimum risk, low building and maintenance cost and other features of a "security" type unit.

There is evidence to show that the retirement home idea is a workable one for certain purposes. Experience so far has been with families who needed public support such as old-age pensions or other forms of relief to maintain them.

The project proposal for the development of the Lakewood-Crandon Resettlement Project, RR-WI-15, submitted for approval in 1936 to the Resettlement Administration (now Farm Security Administration) included the establishment of 50 retirement

homesteads. The proposal contained the following statement in justification of this development:

"The 50 retirement homesteads are proposed to take care of clients on the land purchase area who because of age or disability could not qualify for a full-time farm. Slightly over 50 percent of the farm families now on the land purchase area are on relief. A very low standard of living now exists.

"Nearly all of these families are at present living in isolated places. This increases the cost of relief, medical care, etc. They also have no opportunity for social, recreational, religious, or educational facilities. The clients on the retirement homesteads can raise a garden, keep a cow and a few chickens. The size of the unit will vary from two to ten acres. They will be located in the small villages close to their present habitation.

"These units are proposed as a relief measure with little hope of return from them. Some difficulty may be encountered with local relief authorities if an added number of relief clients are moved into their district. It is expected that these retirement homesteads occupied by relief clients will not be on the tax roll and that the government will supply these housing facilities as a contribution to the local relief administration."

Nine of these retirement units were built on approximately 27 acres of land in Langlade and Forest Counties, and are known as the Northern Pine Retirement Homesteads. Six other units have been built in Monroe County on 53 acres of land. It is contemplated that title to the property will be transferred to the County. These units will appraise at from \$1,100 to \$1,400.

A final word of caution should be injected into the shunting off of these retired farmers. The experience gained through several years of successful operation of the farm should be capitalized on in furnishing the super-

vision necessary to the new operator. Likewise, the retired farmer needs some active interest so let's not take away all the initiative of this retired farmer when we underwrite his security in exchange for the opportunity for a younger man to carry on full-time farming operations.

—P. F. AYLESWORTH,
RURAL REHABILITATION DIVISION, FSA.

Analysis and Interpretation

SIR:

I PARTICULARLY LIKE articles which relate land policy proposals to existing social trends which may or may not have any obvious connection with the specific programs proposed. A recent study of the

Satisfaction

The more I am acquainted with agricultural affairs the better I am pleased with them, inasmuch, that I can nowhere find so great satisfaction as in those innocent and useful pursuits. In indulging these feelings I am led to reflect how much more delightful to an undebauched mind is the task of making improvements on the earth than all the vain glory which can be acquired from ravaging it, by the most uninterrupted career of conquest.

—GEORGE WASHINGTON

locale of unemployment was especially interesting to me. I believe this type of article could be carried further: Each issue of LAND POLICY REVIEW might feature an article dealing with the effect of some one phase of the present dynamic international economy on current agricultural programs. Such an article might, for example, be a review of a report of the Foreign Policy Association with especial reference to the effect of its conclusions on land policy.

It is known, for instance, that the effect of the English blockade on American agriculture is spotty; it affects some crops and some programs much more than others. Equally, the centralization by England of its American purchases and the establishment of purchase priorities has a profound effect on our agricultural economy. I know of these trends only hazily from newspaper and random magazine articles. I would like very much to see a rather specific analysis and interpretation of these trends. I expect others as well would welcome such articles.

There might also be room for an occasional article on economic theory in the field of land policy. I have noticed that the product of economic thinking, in the field of theory, from land-grant colleges is remarkably uncritical. The tight logical system of classic economics still colors much of the economic thinking that is developed in connection with policy planning. Whether or not this logic and its hypotheses are still valid, it would certainly be profitable to test them by reexamination.

In the field of detailed studies I believe I see a need for some comment on conservation economics. How do AAA payments fit into the whole economy of a farm or ranch operation? Does compliance with AAA or SCS requirements increase or decrease an operator's income? Immediately? In the space of a rotation or price cycle? There have been a few studies on this subject, notably by Iowa and Illinois, but a number of us feel a need for a greater

correlation between farm management studies and conservation requirements.

Speaking of compliance, would it be inappropriate to suggest an article, or series of articles, dealing with the degree to which compliance has been achieved by various USDA programs? We encounter indications that compliance is a taboo to which lip service only is paid. This may be a wholly inaccurate generalization. It may reflect only a regional response to compliance or one even more local. It is, however, sufficiently disturbing to warrant much more detailed analysis than is now available, if only as a guide to future land policy projection.

WALTER L. SCOTT,
ASSOCIATE SOIL CONSERVATIONIST,
ALBUQUERQUE, N. M.

SIR:

ALTHOUGH LESS than 8 percent of our country's population are dependents, yet the psychology of their condition on the rest of the country is one of the major contributing causes for periodic waves of depressing influences.

By providing for this unfortunate element of the population and placing them where they may help themselves, cities and country alike will profit immeasurably. For the unemployed who cannot qualify for or secure jobs, or possibly for the time being, the simple cultivation of the soil under the supervision of Government instructors offers the most universal means of counteracting idleness, hunger, and want, and opens up avenues of happiness and contentment.

With the Government's encouragement of the manufacture and use of power alcohol from surplus crops and crops especially planted for the purpose, this and a great deal many other chemurgic products will return millions of acres of land to production which have been laid waste by the advent of the internal-combustion engine.

JOHN H. PEARCE,
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We are founded as a nation of farmers and in spite of the great growth of our industrial life, it still remains true that our whole system rests upon the farm; that the welfare of the whole community depends upon the welfare of the farmer; the strengthening of country life is the strengthening of the Nation.

—THEODORE ROOSEVELT

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